

BUDZINE

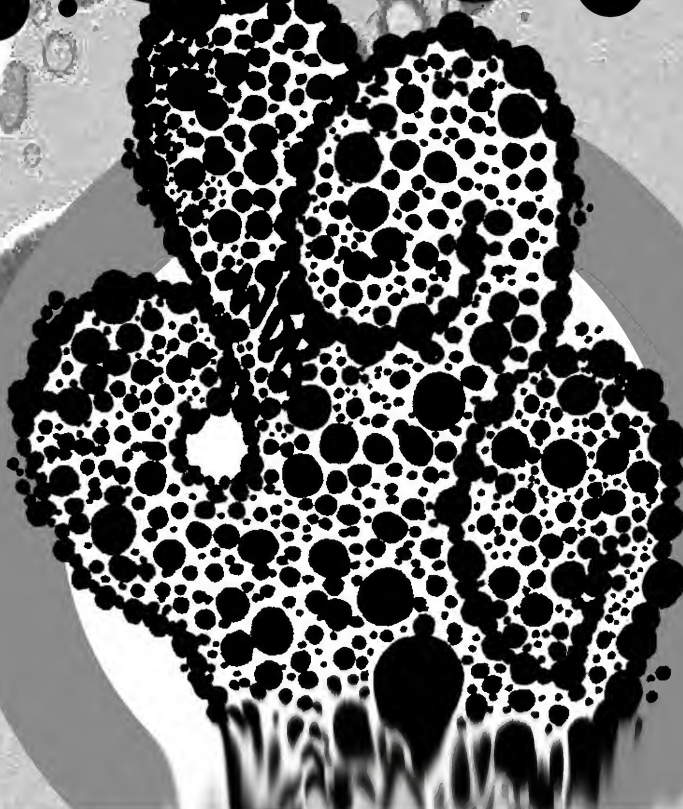
HAND IT OVER #2

CONTENTS:

INTERVIEWS:
TIM MCEWEN.
ALEX SMITH.

IMAGES IN INTERVIEW SUPPLIED BY THEM.

COMIC BY WILL KING



WOULD HAVING NO PROSPECTS HURT YOUR ROMANTIC PROSPECTS? LETS HAVE A GEEZ AT HOW THIS GUY GOES AT IT.

FOR BETTER, FOR WORSE.

**A SHORT STORY OF ROMANCE
AND POVERTY BY WILL KING.**

**LOOK MATE,
SORRY TO SAY BUT
SOMEONE HAD TO GET
SACKED AND ITS YOU.
...CYA BUDDY.**



**TEN YEARS....
TEN BLOODY YEARS AND
THEY SACK ME AT THE
DROP OF A HAT! UN -
BLOODY - BELIEVABLE**

**CHRIST ON A BIKE!! WHAT THE
BLOODY HELL AM I GUNNA DO
NOW? HOW WILL I LIVE? I DONT
HAVE ANY SAVINGS, ANY FAMILY,
AND NOW NO INCOME..**



NEXT STOP: AT CENTRELINK..

NEXT!

**HI, MAVIS IS IT?
I'VE JUST LOST MY
JOB AND WOULD LIKE TO
GET ON NEWSTART.**

**YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT 8
WEEKS FROM YOUR LAST
PAY DAY.**

8 WEEKS?! I CANT..

**CALM
DOWN
MATE..**

SHOOSH!!



**A FLIRTATIOUS
ROMANTIC GESTURE?
MY LIFE IS SLOWLY
CRUMBLING TO PIECES,
AND THIS WOMAN
BATS HER EYELID IN
MY DIRECTION?!**

**SADLY, IN THIS CAPITALIST
SOCIETY I HAVE NOTHING
TO OFFER A WOMAN...**



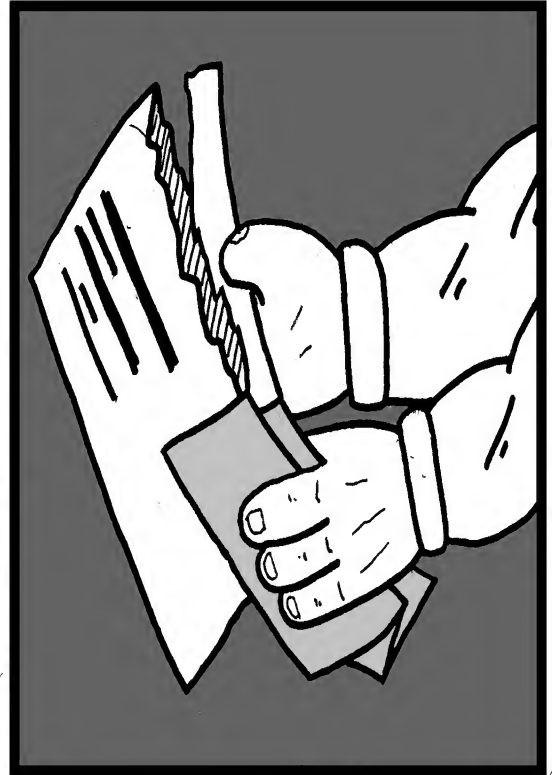
**...EXCEPT MY EVER BURNING LOVE AND
DEVOTION, BUT WHAT NEW AGE
WOMAN STILL WANTS THAT?**



**ANOTHER DAY,
ANOTHER BILL.**

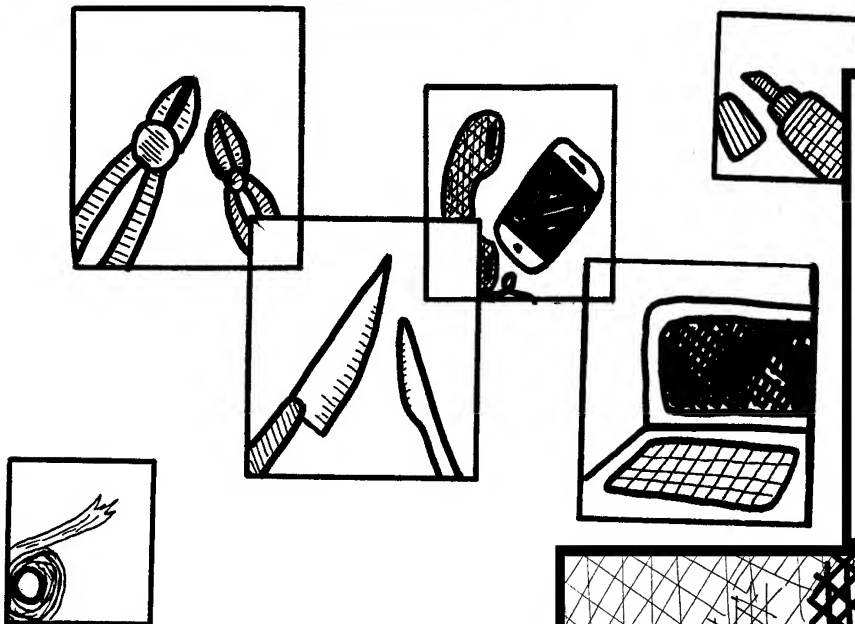
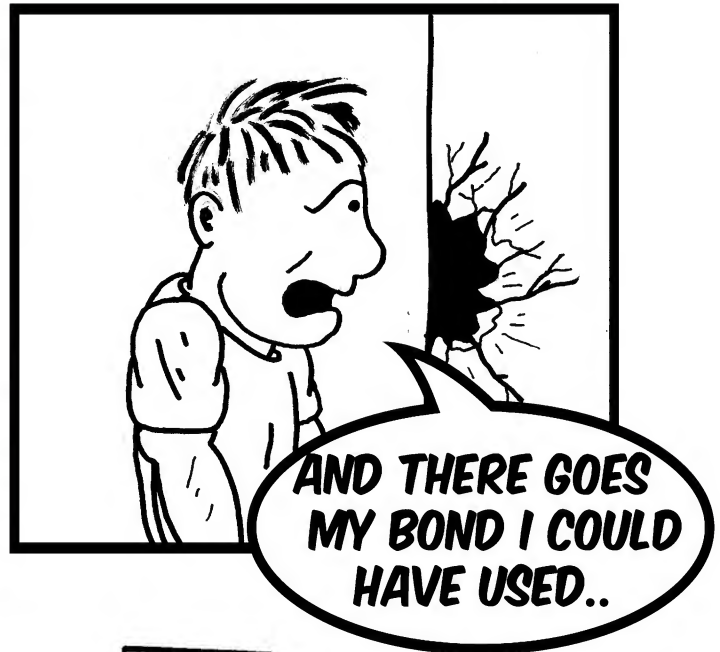


**I'LL BE LUCKY TO
SURVIVE 8 WEEKS.**



dear sir,
due to increased
property demand in
this area, your rent
will rise by 58%
your total
to \$1450

DAMN IT!!



**OVER THE NEXT FEW
DAYS I SOLD EVERY
ITEM I OWNED,
HOCKING MY
ELECTRONICS AND
A GARAGE SALE FOR
THE REST,**

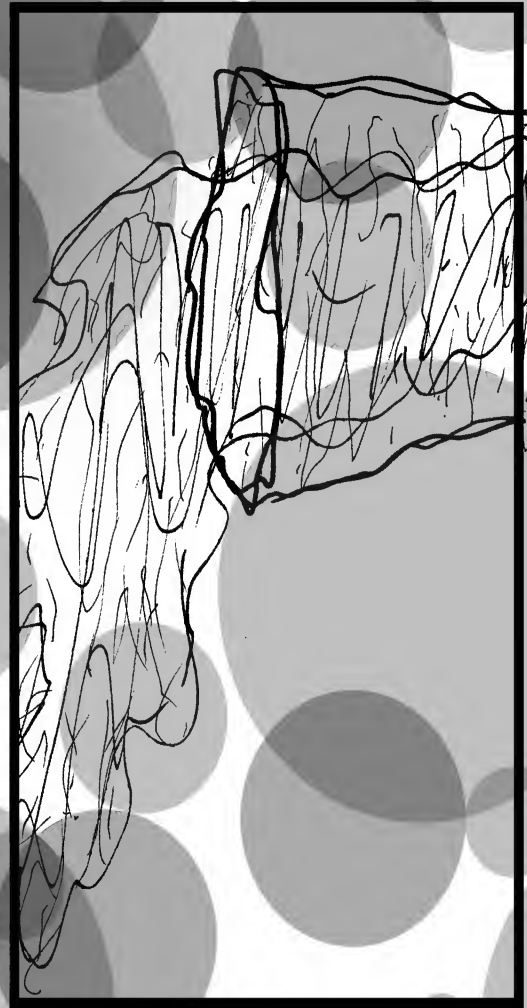
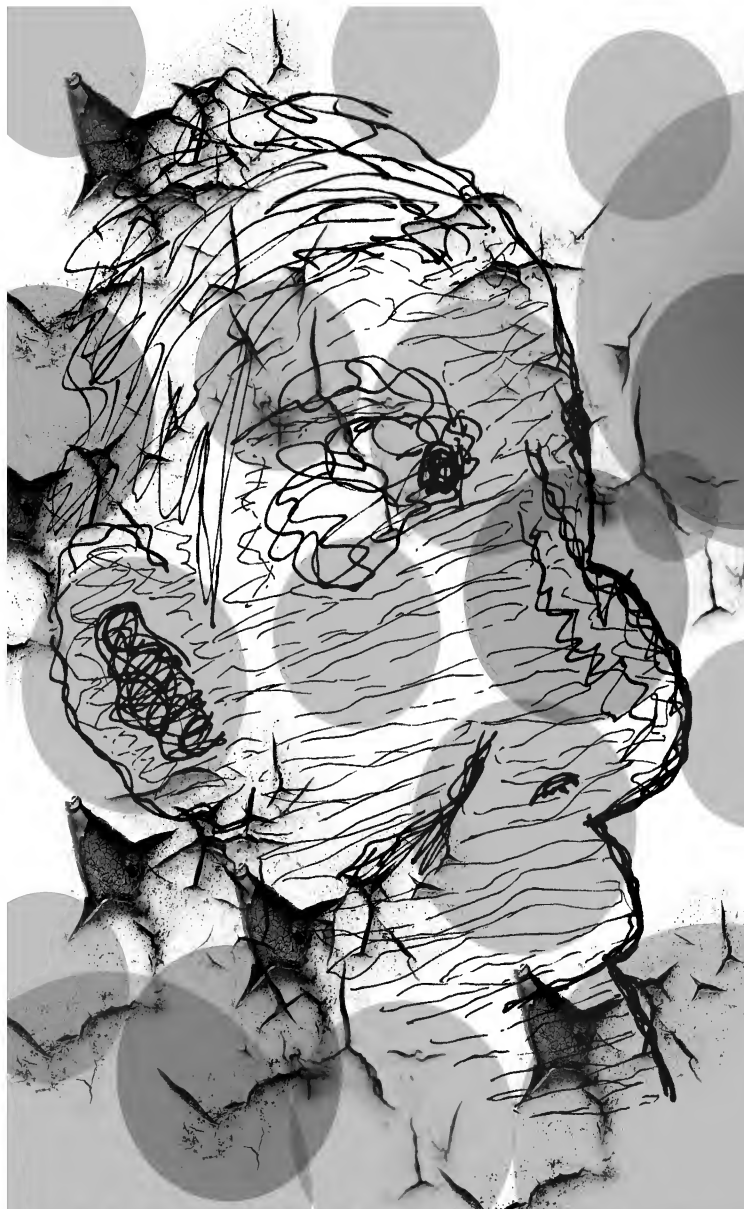
**SO NOW I SIT HERE IN AN
EMPTY ROOM OWNING ONLY
2 SETS OF CLOTHES,
WAITING UNTIL THE NEXT
FORTNIGHT OF RENT IS
DUE AND IM SURE
TO BE EVICTED.**



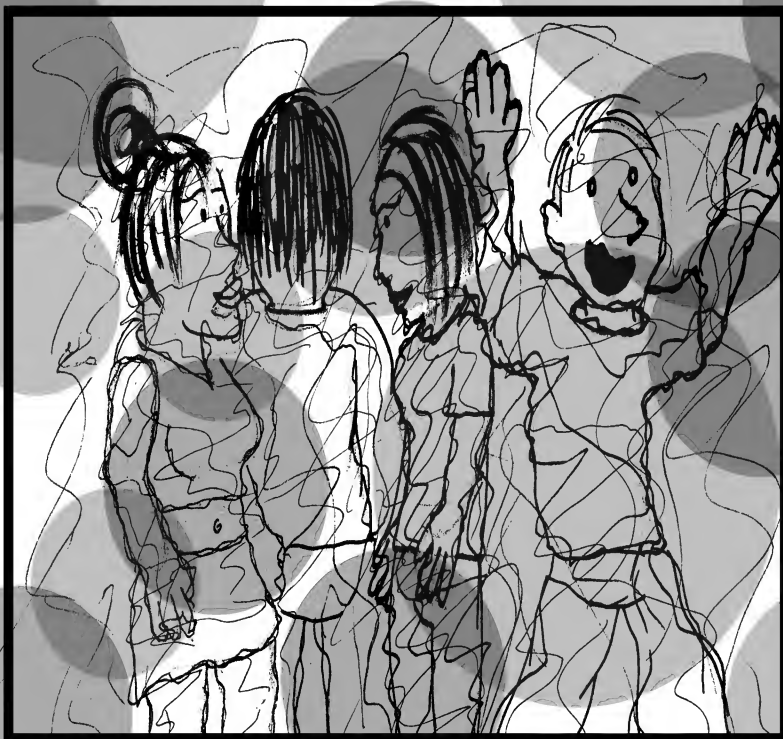


**AFTER DRINKING MOST OF
MY MONEY AWAY TO NUMB
THE PAIN OF MY LOOMING
EVICTION, I THOUGHT TO
MYSELF, MAYBE THERES
SOMETHING BETTER HAPPENING
DOWN AT THE CLUB.**





I CANT REMEMBER ANYTHING THAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT...





INTERVIEW: TIM MCEWEN

WHAT WAS THE FIRST COMIC THAT GAINED YOUR INTEREST?

**I THINK IT WAS PROBABLY AN ANCIENT AUSTRALIAN
BLACK & WHITE REPRINT OF AVENGERS #3.
I STILL OWN IT! EVERY COLOURED-IN-WITH-TEXTAS-PAGE
OF IT.**

WHO INSPIRES YOU TO CREATE COMICS?

**LOTS OF PEOPLE DO! IT'S HARD TO NAIL IT DOWN,
AND TOO LONG A LIST TO WRITE.
TO GIVE YOU SOME SORT OF ANSWER THOUGH,
RIGHT NOW I'M (RE)READING
CEREBUS BY DAVE SIM, AND MATE! IT'S JUST INCREDIBLE!
COMPLETE MASTERY OF THE FORM.
MAKES ME VERY ITCHY TO GET TO WORK MYSELF.**

**WHATS YOUR FAVOURITE THING YOU HAVE WORKED ON
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN DOING COMICS?**

**I'VE BEEN MAKING COMICS FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER.
MY FIRST FORMAL, PRINTED WORK WAS PUBLISHED IN 1984.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT MY FAVOURITE IS THOUGH.
OBVIOUSLY GREENER PASTURES
AS A WHOLE IS STILL MY FAVOURITE THING,
BUT A MORE SPECIFIC THING THAN THAT? I DON'T KNOW.**

I REALLY HAD GREAT FUN DOING THE "I'M AN OLD MAN, GET OFF MY LAWN, MUSIC WAS BETTER IN MY DAY" FOUR PAGE RANT THAT WAS PRINTED IN SPLIT #1 WHICH WAS TITLED "YOUR MUSIC SUX, MAN!". IN IT COLIN AND TREVOR (FROM GREENER PASTURES) GO ON ABOUT HOW GREAT AND IMPORTANT 80S MUSIC WAS. I DID SOME FUN CARTOONING IN THAT ONE, DRESSING THE CHARACTERS UP AS 80S AUSTRALIAN MUSIC ICONS LIKE THE DIVINYLS AND THE ANGELS.

WHAT DO YOU FEEL HAS BEEN THE MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT IN YOUR CAREER?

HAHA – "CAREER"?!? I GUESS IT WOULD BE ONE OZCON (WHICH WAS A COMICS CONVENTION RUN BY KINGS COMICS IN THE 90S) WHERE WE HAD A CROWD AT OUR BOOTH FOR THE ENTIRE WEEKEND, THREE PEOPLE DEEP, WANTING TO BUY OUR COMICS AND GET SKETCHES. HECTIC AND AWESOME WEEKEND!

WHO ARE AUSTRALIAN COMIC WRITERS/ARTISTS THAT YOU APPRECIATE?

GARY CHALONER IS NOT ONLY ONE OF MY FAVOURITE AUSTRALIAN COMICS CREATORS, BUT HE'S ONE OF MY ALL-TIME FAVOURITE COMICS CREATORS EVER. BOBBY N. IS BRILLIANT – I WISH HE'D MAKE MORE COMICS. TRUDY COOPER IS AMAZING, AND I WISH SHE'D MAKE MORE COMIC BOOK COMICS RATHER THAN WEB STRIPS. ANDREW FULTON ALWAYS DELIGHTS AND AMAZES. BEN SEA (BEN CONSTANTINE) AS WELL. I WISH SAMANTHA CALCRAFT (MAMATH) WOULD MAKE MORE FULL-ON COMICS AS WELL. AMEI ZHAO'S WORK IS BEAUTIFUL. CAROLYN GAN'S EQUALLY SO. YET NEITHER OF THEM MAKE ENOUGH PRINT COMICS EITHER.

THE NEXT DAY,



**I SPLASHED SOME
WATER ON MY FACE,**



**BUT IT DIDNT WAKE ME UP FROM THIS STRANGE DREAM..
I CANT REMEMBER ANYTHING FROM LAST NIGHT,
WHAT HAPPENED?!**

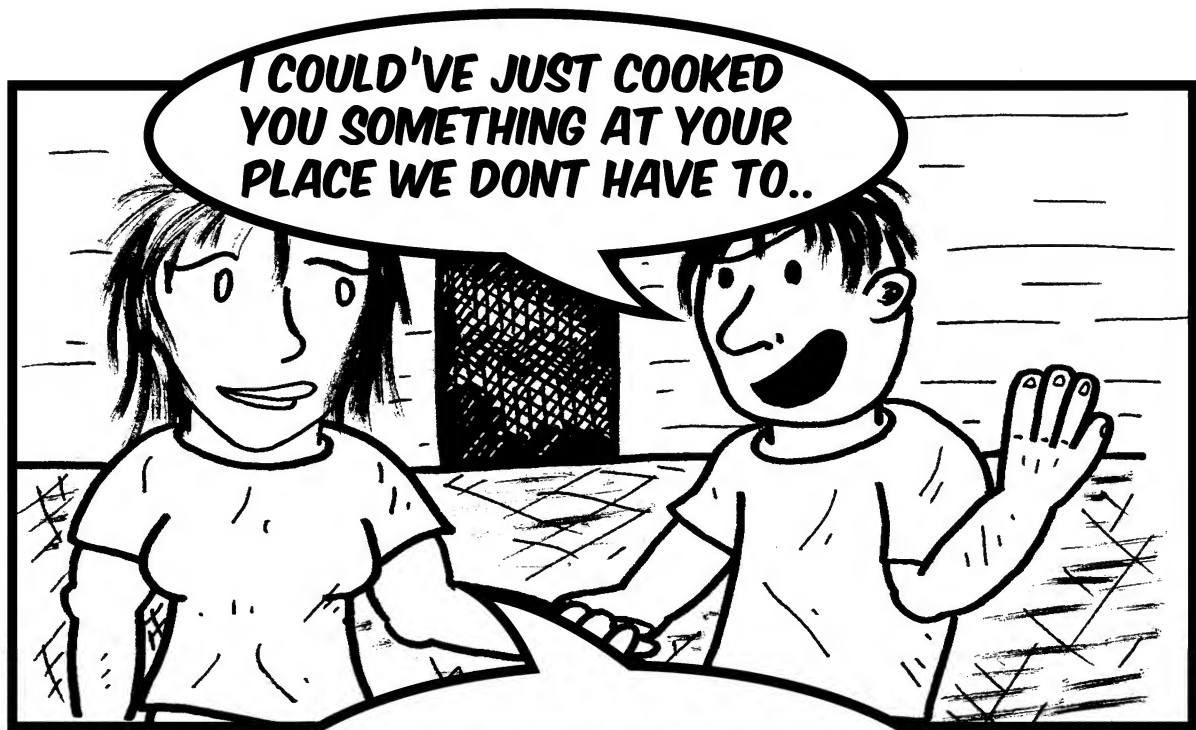
**AND WHO WAS THAT
IN THE BED?!?!**



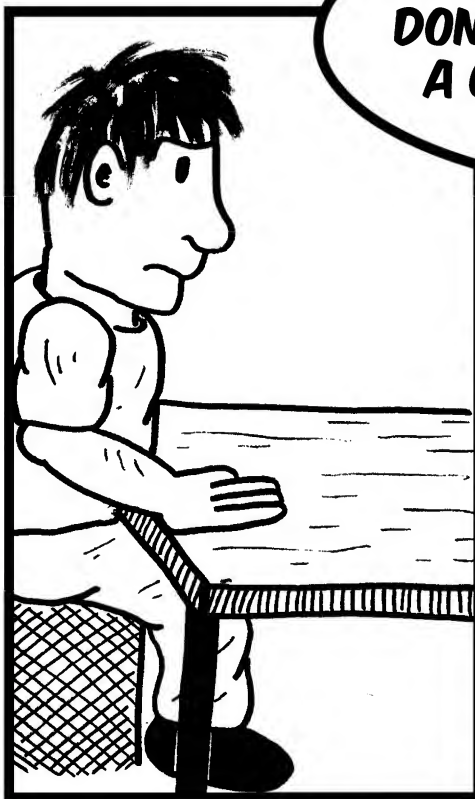
**AH.. GOOD MORNING!
DO YOU WANNA GO GET
A LATE BREAKFAST?
OR AH.. LUNCH? HAHA..**



**THE WOMAN FROM CENTRELINK?!
THIS HAS TO BE A DREAM!!**



**I COULD'VE JUST COOKED
YOU SOMETHING AT YOUR
PLACE WE DONT HAVE TO..**



**BUT ITS NICE GETTING OUT,
DONT YOU THINK? THERES
A GOOD PLACE JUST DOWN
THE CORNER.**



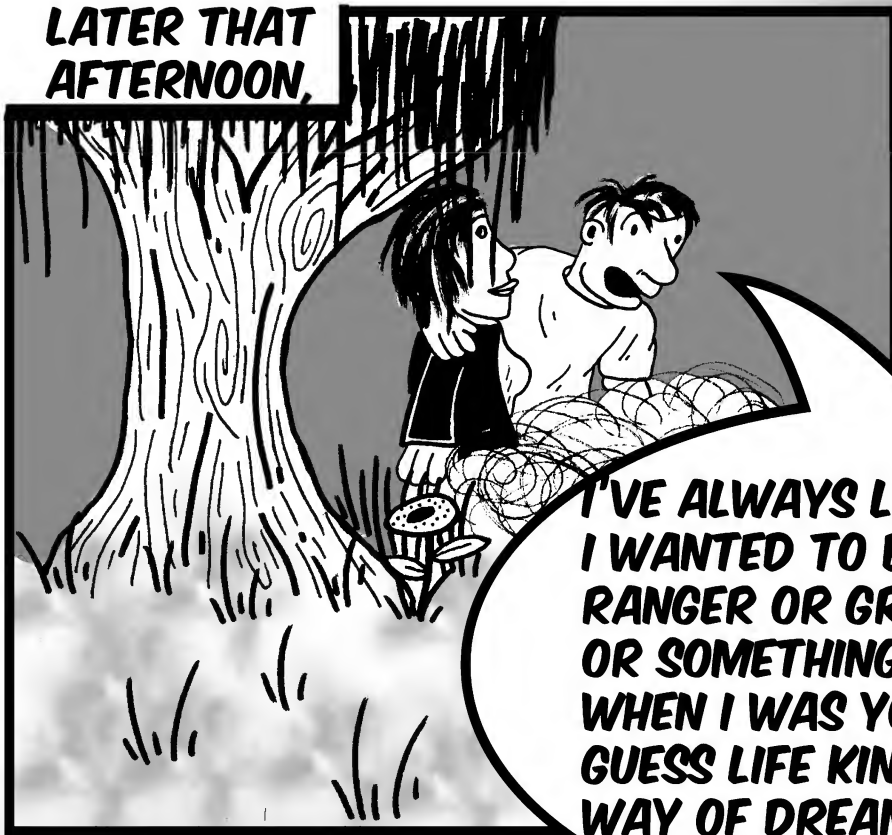
**OKAY.. ARE
YOU GUYS READY
TO ORDER??**



**JUST AN
ORANGE JUICE
THANKS, IM ON A
DIET..**

**GREAT, SO HERE GOES
MY LAST \$20 ON FOOD,
WHAT AM I MENT TO
SAY? "SORRY I CANT,
I DONT HAVE A PENNY
TO MY NAME AND I'LL
BE HOMELESS SOON."**

**LATER THAT
AFTERNOON,**

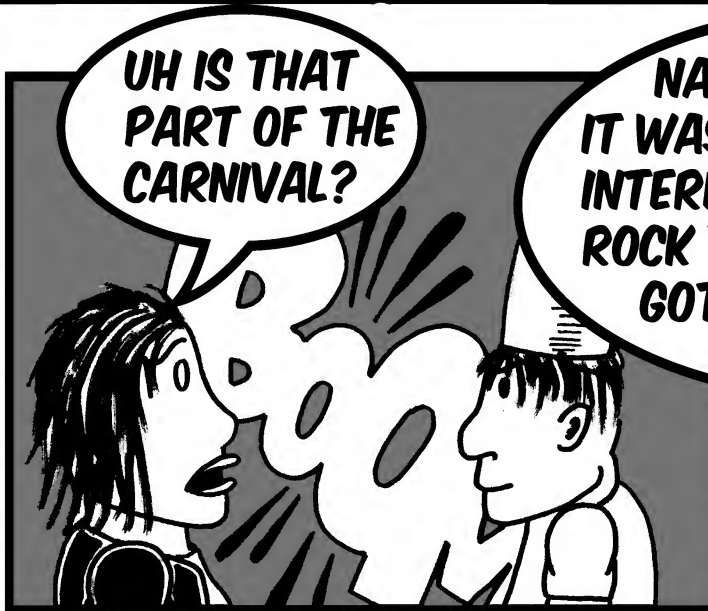
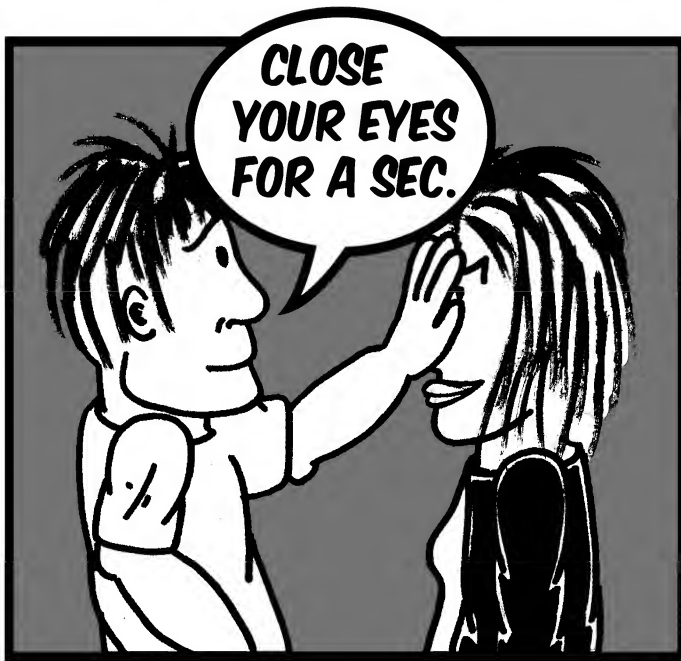


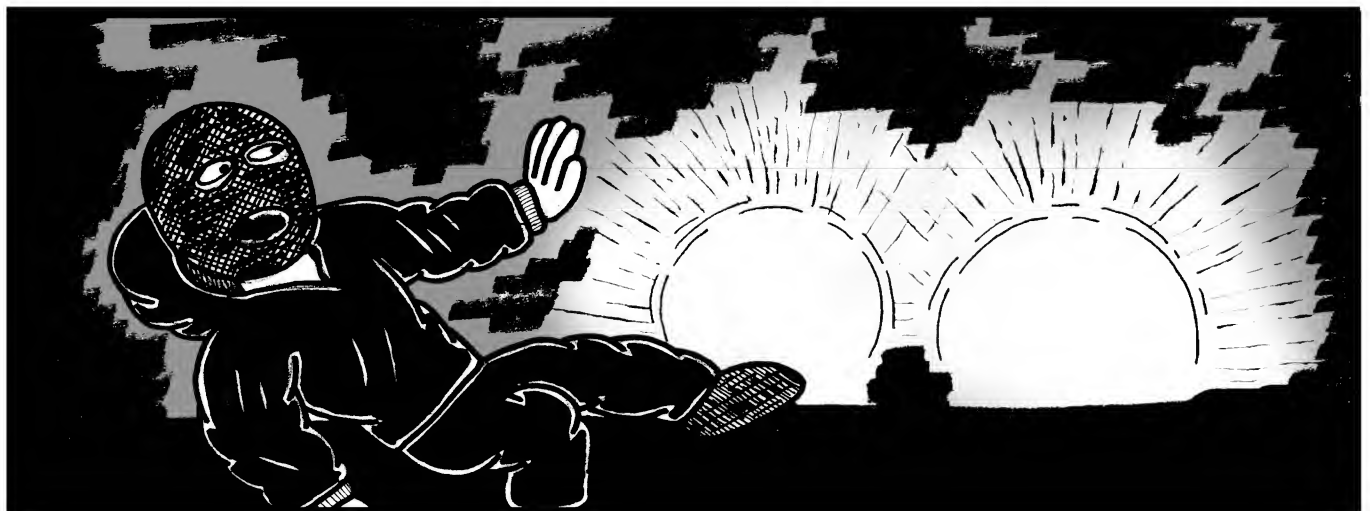
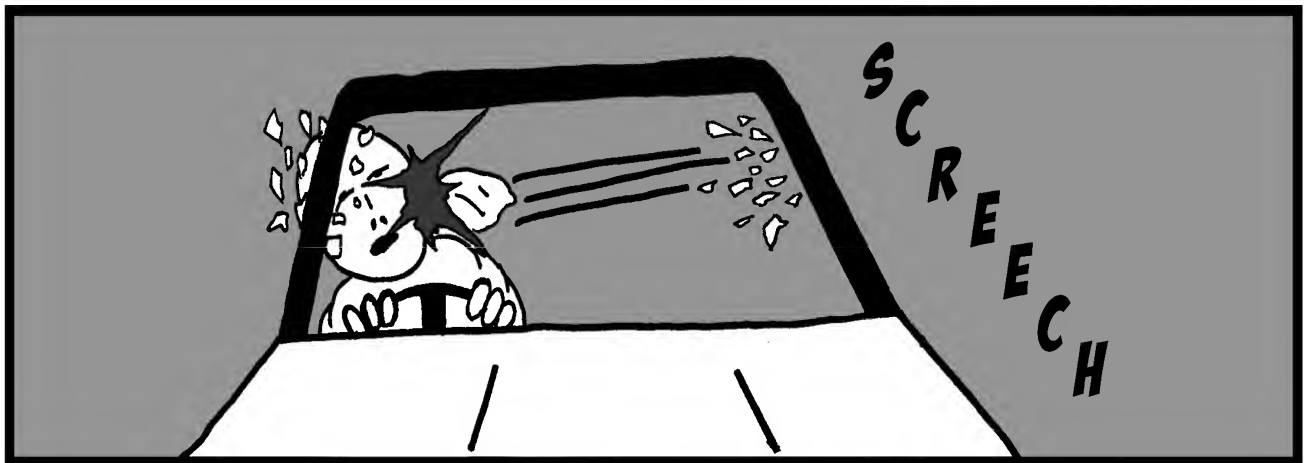
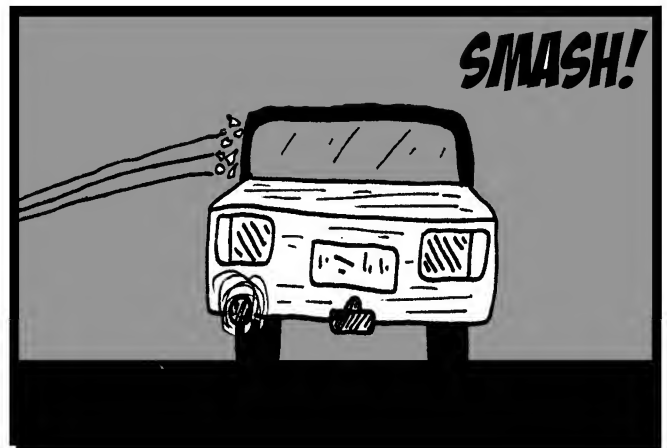
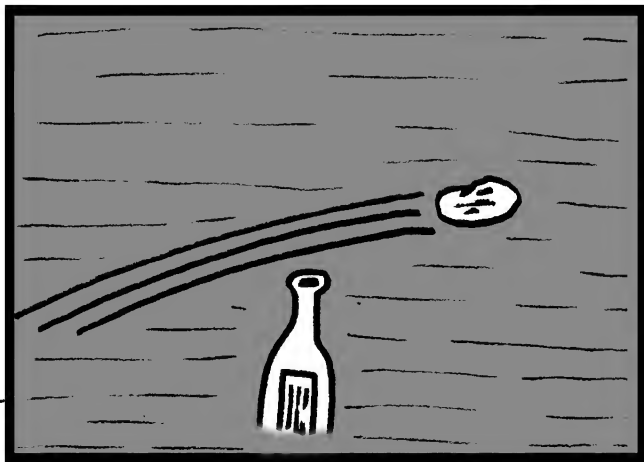
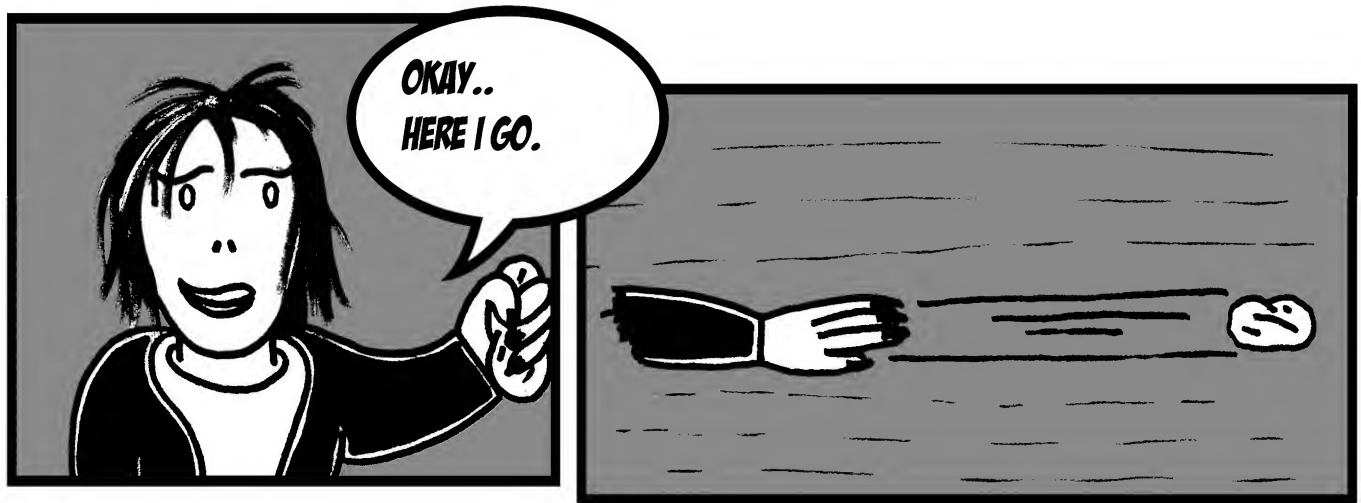
**I'VE ALWAYS LOVED NATURE,
I WANTED TO BE A PARK
RANGER OR GROUNDSKEEPER
OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT
WHEN I WAS YOUNGER. BUT I
GUESS LIFE KINDA GOT IN THE
WAY OF DREAMS LIKE THAT.**

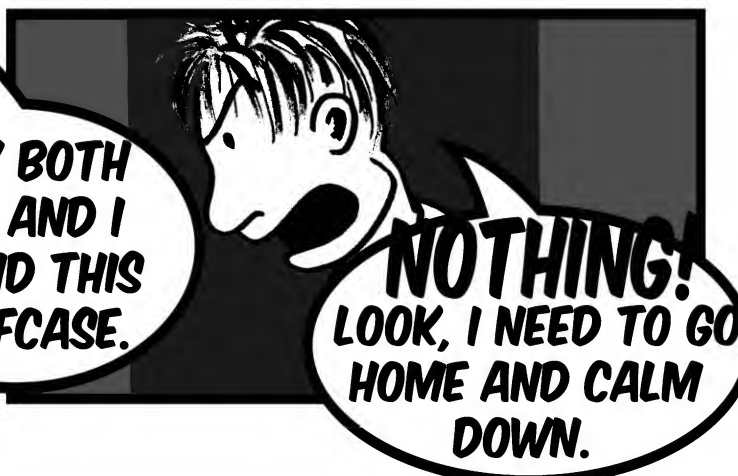
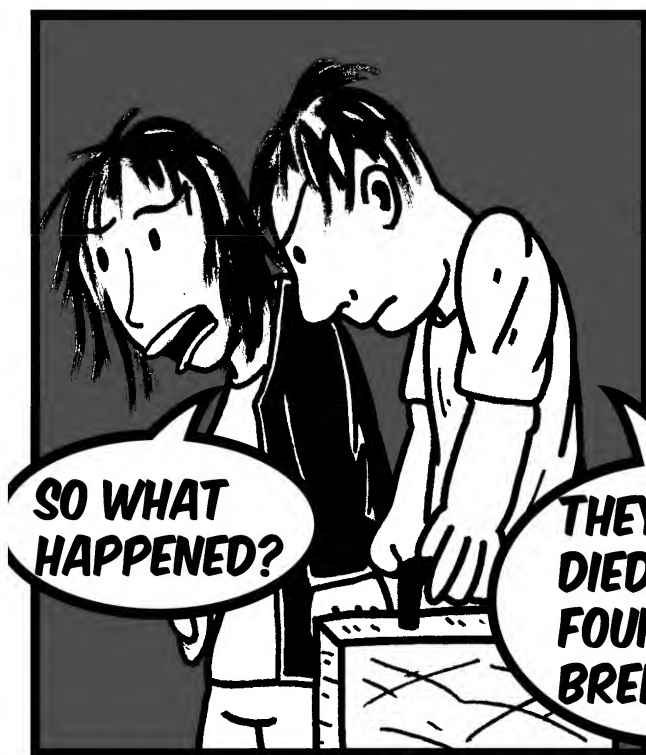
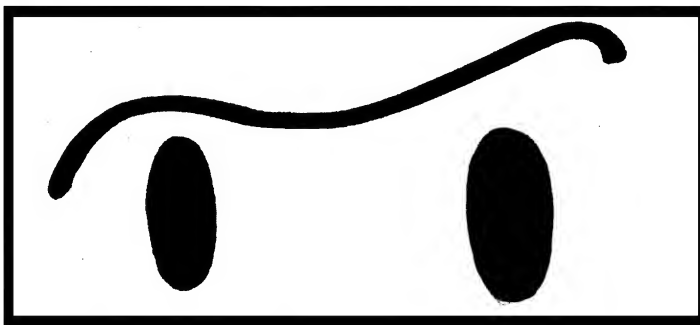
**WELL ITS NEVER TOO
LATE TO TRY LEARN,
IM SURE YOU COULD
DO IT!**



**IS SHE IN LOVE WITH ME NOW?
HOW COULD SHE SAY SUCH
ROMANTIC THINGS ON OUR FIRST
PROPER DATE?!**







INTERVIEW: ALEX SMITH

WHAT WAS THE FIRST COMIC THAT GAINED YOUR INTEREST?

I BOUGHT SPAWN #11 FROM A FRIEND IN SECONDARY SCHOOL. THE ISSUE WAS WRITTEN BY FRANK MILLER, AND WAS ULTRA VIOLENT (SPAWN TELEPORTED INTO HIS OPPONENTS BODY - YUCK)! I DECIDED TO START PICKING-UP THE BOOK AT MY LOCAL COMIC SHOP (FANTASTIC STORE IN BRIGHTON, ENGLAND - LONG SINCE CLOSED). THE NEW ISSUE OF SPAWN WAS #29, MEANING I HAD A FAIR FEW BACK-ISSUES TO PICK-UP.

SPAWN #29 WAS A SELF-CONTAINED STORY, FOCUSING ON TWO YOUNG BOYS AND THEIR ABUSIVE FATHER. THE STORY ITSELF WAS PRETTY HEAVY-GOING, BUT THE ENDING WAS TRULY SHOCKING. BASICALLY EVERYTHING SPAWN HAD ENDEAVOURED TO DO TO HELP THE TWO YOUNG BOYS HAD BEEN UNDONE BY THEIR MORALLY CORRUPT FATHER. DESPITE THE SHOCK VALUE AND INCLUSION OF THE ELEMENTAL SPAWN, THE STORY SEEMED VERY REAL - AND CONTINUES TO BE MY FAVOURITE EVER SINGLE ISSUE, COMIC-BOOK.

WHO INSPIRES YOU TO CREATE COMICS?

I DIDN'T GET INTO COMICS UNTIL MY LATE TEENS. SINCE THEN I'VE BEEN INSPIRED BY ANY COMIC WHICH I'VE FOUND VISUALLY EXCITING OR IN SOME WAY EMOTIONAL. I HAVE BEEN INSPIRED TO CREATE COMICS BY THE CREATORS I ADMIRE SUCH AS; TODD MCFARLANE, HARVEY PEKAR, FRANK MILLER, ALAN MOORE, COSMO WHITE AND LANDO (TO NAME A FEW). I LIKE THE IDEA OF PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE COMIC-BOOK MEDIUM AND I BELIEVE THESE CREATORS AND MORE HAVE DONE JUST THIS. OUTSIDE OF COMIC-BOOK CREATORS, ANYONE WHO REACTS TO MY WORK IN THE WAY

IN WHICH WAS INTENDED (OR OTHERWISE, FOR THAT MATTER) INSPIRES ME TO KEEP GOING - KEEP CREATING COMIC-BOOKS AND ART.

WHATS YOUR FAVOURITE THING YOU HAVE WORKED ON AND HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN DOING COMICS?

I HAVE BEEN MAKING COMICS SINCE I WAS INTRODUCED TO THEM BACK IN MY LATE TEENS. I MESSED AROUND WITH THEM FOR MY OWN PLEASURE FOR A WHILE, THEN I STARTED SUBMITTING WORK TO FANZINES AND COMICS IN THE UK, SUCH AS; NUCOMIX AND ZARJAZ. A CREATORS LATEST WORK IS USUALLY THEIR FAVOURITE, AS YOU'RE FOREVER CONSIGNED TO BETTERING YOURSELF. I'M VERY EXCITED ABOUT THE NEXT ISSUE OF SSOB STORY (#2) AND WAS VERY HAPPY WITH THE WORK I DID FOR BEN BYRNES FORTHCOMING NSEW. WITH REGARD TO OLDER WORK, I'M VERY FOND OF THE SECOND CHAPTER IN SSOB STORY #1 - THE WRITING AND ART CAME TOGETHER RATHER NICELY.

WHAT DO YOU FEEL HAS BEEN THE MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT IN YOUR CAREER?

IT'S ALWAYS A THRILL TO GET PUBLISHED AND TO SEE YOUR WORK IN PRINT. TO SELL YOUR WORK TO A TOTAL STRANGER AND TO HAVE THEM GIVE YOU POSITIVE FEEDBACK IS ALSO A REAL BOOST TO ONES CONFIDENCE. THE BIGGEST AND MOST SUBSTANTIAL LAUNCH OF A BOOK I'VE BEEN INVOLVED WITH WAS THROUGH FEC PUBLISHING - THE BOOK WAS HORROR ANTHOLOGY, FIRESIDE TALES. I WAS ONE OF A HANDFUL OF CREATORS WHO WERE LAUNCHING MATERIAL ON THE DAY. WE SIGNED BOOKS AND LATER DID A Q AND A. THE AFTERNOON/EVENING WAS HOSTED BY THE GOOD PEOPLE AT ALL STAR COMICS (AT THEIR OLD LONSDALE PREMISES). THIS WAS DEFINITELY A WATERSHED MOMENT IN MY CAREER. HOPEFULLY THERE'LL BE PLENTY MORE SIMILAR EXPERIENCES TO FOLLOW!

WHO ARE AUSTRALIAN COMIC WRITERS/ARTISTS THAT YOU APPRECIATE?

MELBOURNE HAS A TERRIFIC COMIC-BOOK SCENE. IN THE UK MOST OF MY CONTEMPORARIES LIVED FURTHER AFIELD, MEANING WE WERE ONLY EVER SOCIALLY CONNECTED THROUGH CORRESPONDENCE. THE MELBOURNE SCENE IS VERY SOCIAL AND ALSO VERY ENCOURAGING. THERE IS A GREAT MANY TALENTED INDIVIDUALS OUT THERE AT THE MOMENT AND I WOULD SAY THE POOL OF TALENT WE HAVE MEANS EVERYONE IS FORCED TO UP THEIR GAME - AND PRODUCE SOMETHING OF SIGNIFICANCE AND QUALITY (BOTH IN TERMS OF CONTENT AND FINISHED PRODUCT).

I REALLY LOVE COLIN WILSON'S WORK.

ALONG WITH TOM TAYLOR I WOULD SAY HE IS THE MOST COMMERCIALY SUCCESSFUL MELBOURNE-BASED CREATOR.

COMING FROM A MORE INDEPENDENT SENSIBILITY, BRUCE MUTARD IS EQUALLY AS IMPRESSIVE. BOBBY N AND TIM MOLLOY ARE VERY DIFFERENT BUT EQUALLY EXQUISITE STORY-TELLERS. BEN HUTCHINGS HAS A GREAT ILLUSTRATION STYLE, YET CONTINUES TO EXPERIMENT WITH COMIC-BOOK CONVENTIONS. I ALSO LOOK FORWARD TO MORE ISSUES OF FROGMAN BY MICHAEL WSZELAKI. ALL THE ABOVE ARE WRITER/ILLUSTRATORS (SAVE FOR WILSON). AS THIS IS SOMETHING I ASPIRE TO, IT'S PRETTY AWESOME TO BE ABLE TO CALL THEM MY CONTEMPORARIES HERE IN MELBOURNE!

**CHECK OUT MORE OF ALEX'S STUFF AT
[FACEBOOK.COM/ALEXSMITHARTIST/](https://www.facebook.com/ALEXSMITHARTIST/)**





**HEY MIKE,
YEAH IM GLAD YOU
GOT THE MONEY OKAY!
I HAD A BIG WIN ON THE
PONIES AND THOUGHT I'D
PAY ALOT OF RENT IN
ADVANCE.**

**THIS MONEY REALLY HAS SAVED
ME ALOT OF TROUBLE, NO MORE
RENT ISSUES, NO MORE DOLE
OFFICE, NO MORE SALVOS FOOD..**

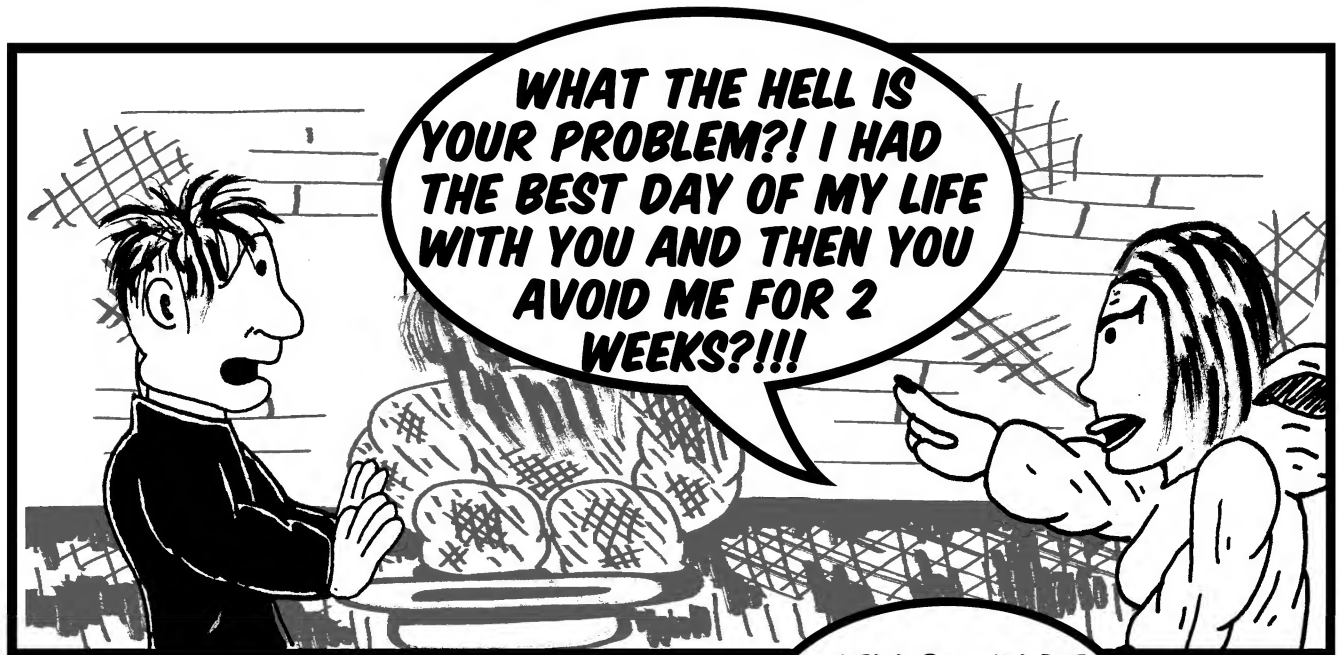


**D
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HEY!







**ARGH.. WHY
DIDNT I JUST TELL
HER WHAT WAS
REALLY GOING
ON!?**



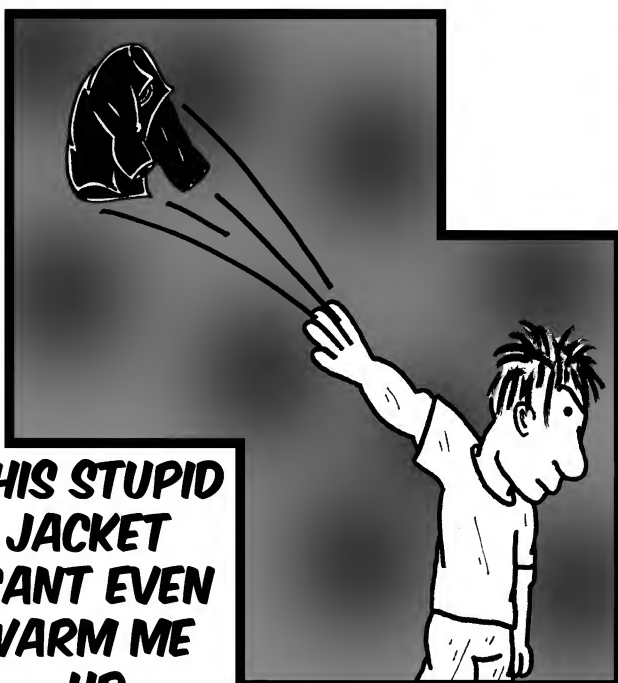
**SORRY FOR
HAVIN' A DOMESTIC
INFRONT OF YA MATE,
HAVE A GOOD ONE**

**THE WORLD SEEMS SO
DARK AND COLD NOW,**



**I'M ALL ALONE
HURDLING THROUGH
LIFE ALONE AND I
JUST TOLD OFF THE
ONLY PERSON THAT
CARES ABOUT ME.**

**ALL BECAUSE I WAS LETTING
MY EGO TAKE CONTROL..**

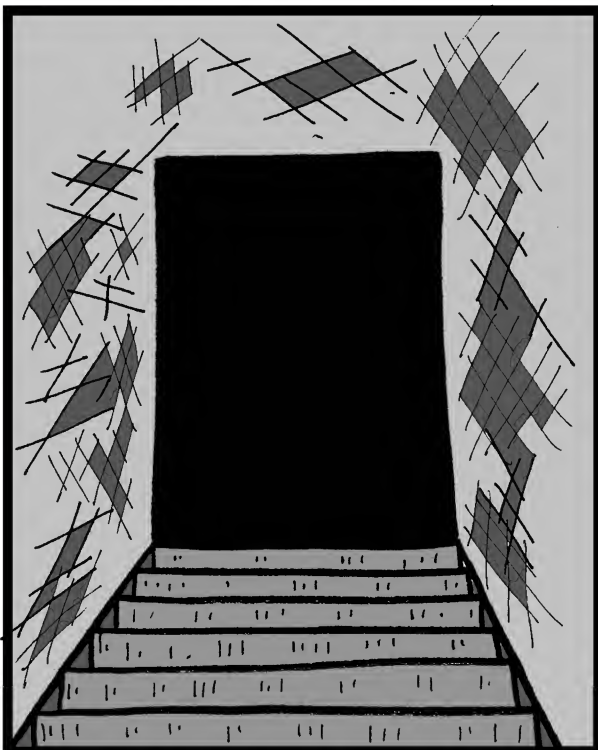


**THIS STUPID
JACKET
CANT EVEN
WARM ME
UP.**

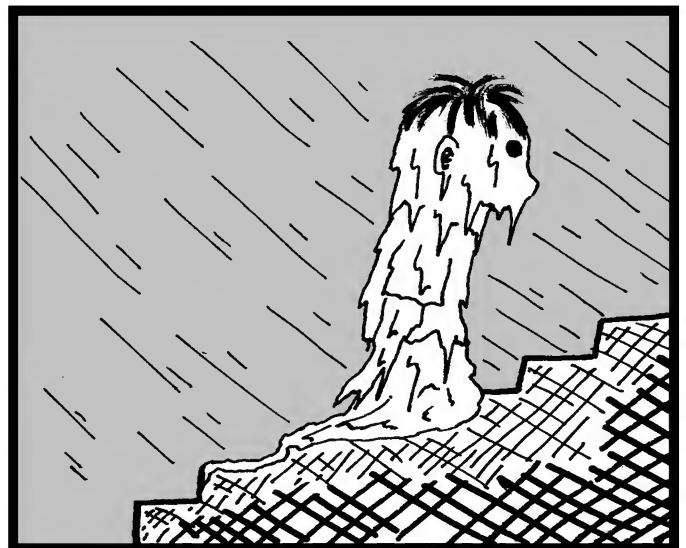




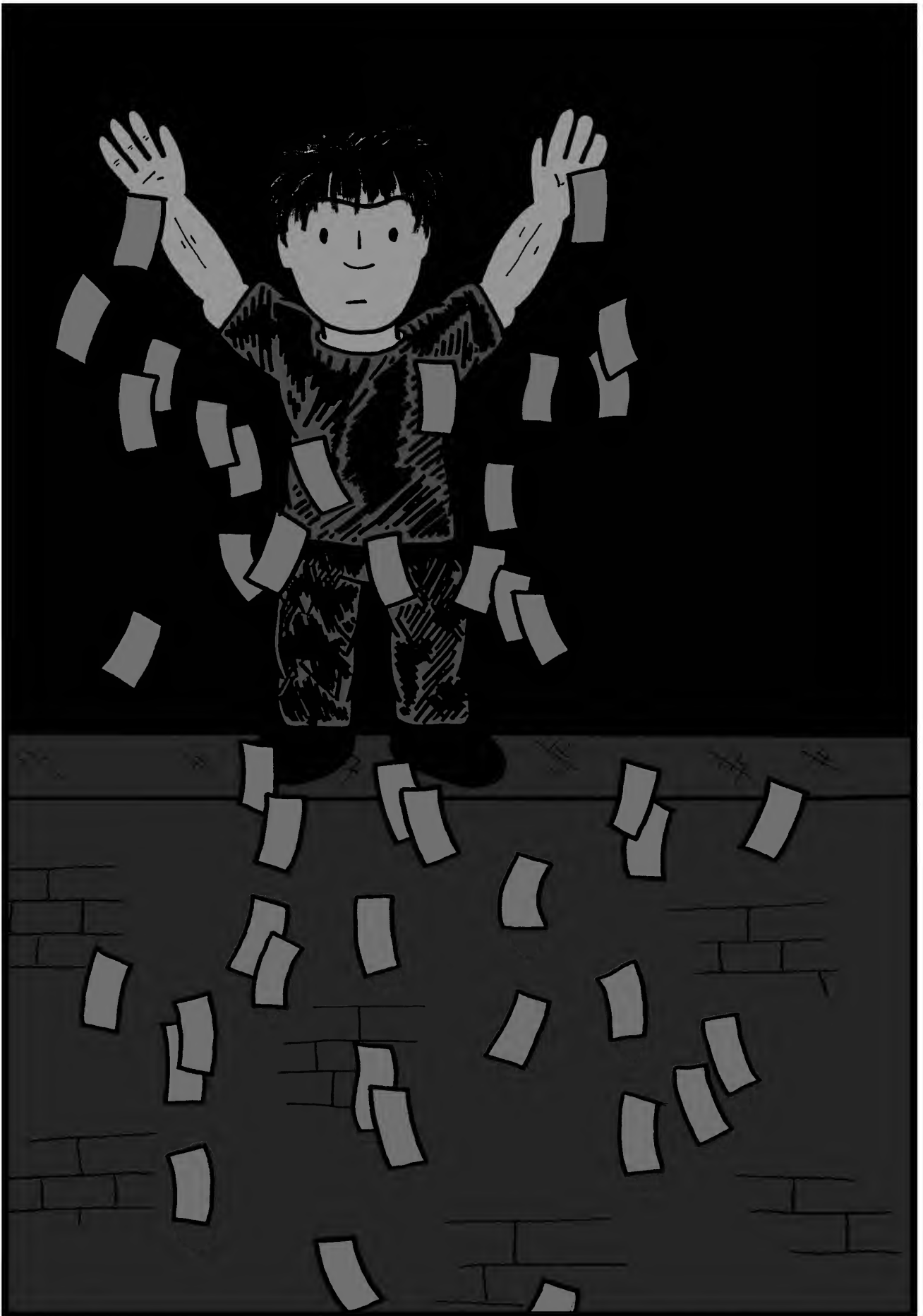
**I GUESS I'LL GO UP HERE AND
END ALL THIS,**



**WHO NEEDS MONEY WHEN YOU
CAN'T EVEN BE HAPPY?**



OKAY THIS IS IT..



HOPEFULLY THIS MONEY FINDS SOMEONE ELSE WHO TRUELY NEEDS IT.



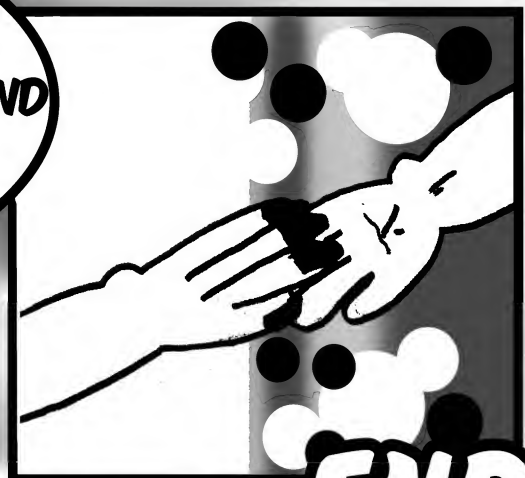
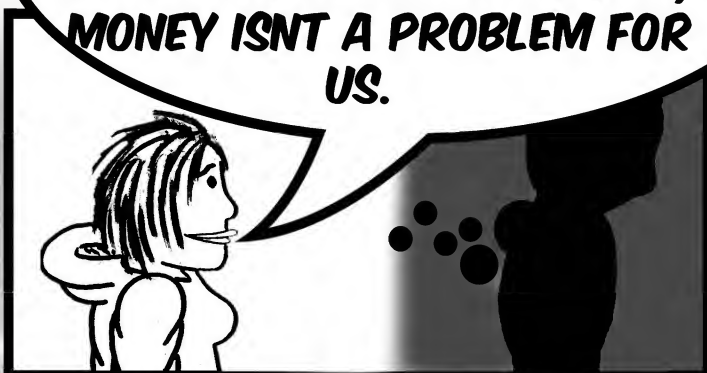
**SO THIS IS WHY YOU SPENT
BARELY ANY MONEY ON OUR
DATE, TO SAVE IT UP AND
THROW IT OFF ROOFTOPS?**



**I DIDNT HAVE ANY MONEY
THEN, AND I WAS TOO SHAME
TO ADMIT I WAS BROKE, THAT
BREIFCASE I STOLE WAS FULL
OF CASH. I NEEDED TO PAY MY
BILLS.**

HOW DID YOU FIND ME?

**I FOLLOWED YOU. LOOK YOU
DONT HAVE TO DO ALL OF THIS,
I'VE GOT A GOVERNMENT JOB AND
AM A MEMBER OF MY UNION,
MONEY ISNT A PROBLEM FOR
US.**



END.